

Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2005
Telephone: (916) 653-0062

To: John L. Geesman, Presiding Member

From: California Energy Commission – Jack W. Caswell, Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINE (99- AFC-8C) STATUS REPORT #5**

Energy Commission staff (staff) in coordination with the co-lead federal agencies, Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are finalizing the Staff Assessment /Draft Environmental Assessment (SA/DEA) for publication on the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification (BEPTL) petition.

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) has provided letters of concurrence on their review of the proposed BEPTL segments, Buck Blvd. Substation to Julian Hinds Substation and Buck Blvd. Substation to Midpoint Substation. The concurrence letters are a result of the CAISO's review of the System Impact Studies (SIS) performed by Southern California Edison (SCE) on the proposed BEPTL. The CAISO concurrence letters provide SCE and Blythe Energy Project (BEP) with a list of operational and physical mitigation measures to choose from that will insure the BEPTL project impacts to the CAISO transmission system will be reduced to a manageable level. Staff is expecting a letter from the BEP in September stating its choices from among the mitigation measures identified in the CAISO concurrence letters. Staff needs this letter to fully understand the BEPTL project impacts and address the possibility of additional downstream environmental impacts.

Additionally, review, comments and edits to the final SA/DEA technical sections by co-lead federal agencies and staff are taking additional time and have impacted the earlier proposed publication date, August 31, 2005 for the SA/DEA. In order for staff to meet CEQA/NEPA requirements, provide meaningful recommendations and meet the revised SA/DEA publication date goal, the following critical information still needs to be provided by BEP. Once the items below are provided, assuming they are complete, it is our intent to publish the SA/DEA within 30 days.

- BEP letter identifying proposed mitigation measures from CAISO concurrence letter.
- Concurrence with co-lead Federal agencies that SA/DEA is complete.

Staff plans to publish a joint SA/DEA by the end of September or early October 2005. If for some reason the final information is delayed or incomplete, the SA/DEA publication date will be revised and we will inform the Committee.

**Blythe Energy Transmission Line Major Amendment
Staff Proposed Schedule**

Activity	Date
Petition filed by Project Owner	Oct 12, 04
Staff files Data Requests	Nov 01, 04
Staff files Issue Identification Report	Nov 03, 04
Committee holds Information-Scoping Hearing and Site Visit	Nov 10, 04
Staff Data Request and Issue Workshop	Nov 15, 04
Continued Data Request Workshop	Nov 23, 04
Project owner provides Data Responses	Nov 30, 04
Second Set of Data Requests issued by Staff	Dec 17, 04
Second Set of Data Responses issued by Project Owner	Jan 18, 05
Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed	Jan 24, 05
PSA Workshop	Feb 17, 05
Applicant's Comments on PSA & Data Responses	Feb 28, 05
Comments on PSA from; local, state, and federal agencies	Feb 28, 05
Cultural Resources Study	July 15, 05
CAISO Final SIS Concurrence Letter	Aug 12, 05
*Blythe Energy Project Letter Identifying SIS Mitigation	Sept 12, 05
SA/DEA Co-Agency Publication Date	Sept-Oct 05
<i>Conference on Evidentiary Hearings</i>	<i>TBD**</i>
<i>Evidentiary Hearings</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Committee files Proposed Decision</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Committee Conference on the Proposed Decision</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Close of public comments on the Proposed Decision</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Commission Decision</i>	<i>TBD</i>

*This information is required before staff publishes the SA/DEA.

**To Be Determined by Commissioner

Mail: POS